IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

CATHERINE ALEXANDER,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. 18-cv-966-SMY
TAKE-TWO INTERACTIVE)
SOFTWARE, INC. 2K GAMES, INC.,)
2K SPORTS INC., WORLD)
WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.,)
VISUAL CONCEPTS)
ENTERTAINMENT, YUKE'S CO., LTD,)
YUKES LA INC.,)
)
Defendants.)

ORDER

YANDLE, District Judge:

The Court makes the following rulings regarding the deposition designations for Edward Kiang, Mark Little, and Chris Snyder:

I. EDWARD KIANG

A. Objections to Initial Designations

Defendants object to Plaintiff's deposition designations for Mr. Kiang as follows:

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
30:18 - 30:24	Q (By Mr. Friedman) But you	602; lack of foundation; calls
31:2 - 31:9	you're welcome to review this section or	for legal conclusion.
	any other portion. But my question is, Mr.	
	Kiang, is it accurate that Mr. Orton is	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	entitled to a portion of the licensed	
	products' net receipts of the WWE 2K	
	video games that are the subject of this	
	litigation?	
	A That is correct. He would get a pro	
	rata share of the portion of sales.	

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
	Q (By Mr. Friedman) So is it correct	
	that the better the games sell, the more	
	money Mr. Orton makes?	
	A It would be correct to say that the	
	better the game does, the better all the	
	talent are paid inclusive of Randy.	
35:7 - 35:22	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Okay. On page	Pending MIL; 401; 402; 403.
	9, WWE's response is that as of June 30,	
	2019, it was paid royalties on the sales of	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	WWE 2K Games as follows.	
	Do you see that?	
	A I do.	
	Q And for the WWE 2K16 game as of	
	that date, WWE had received	
	\$19,232,358, is that right? A That is correct.	
	Q And in connection with the WWE	
	2K17 game as of that date, the WWE had	
	received \$17,274,280, is that right? A That's correct.	
	Q And in connection with the WWE	
	2K18 game as of that date, the WWE had	
	received \$13,051,966,	
	is that right?	
	A Yes.	
40:1 - 40:3	Q My question is, is it accurate to say	602; lack of foundation; calls
40:8 - 40:9	that without WWE approval, Take-Two	for legal conclusion; calls for
10.0	cannot have utilized WWE intellectual	speculation.
	property?	
	A Correct. Without the license, they	OVERRULED
	could not use the IP that WWE owns and	
	controls.	
40:19 - 40:21	Q (By Mr. Friedman) okay. Is the	602; lack of foundation; calls
40:24 - 41:14	WWE's approval required for any licensed	for legal conclusion; calls for
41:18 - 41:21	products to be sold?	speculation.
	A If what you mean is in the	
	development of the product, we provide	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	approvals for how the brand is utilized,	
	but put in place prior to going on sale.	
	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Yes. Is that the	
	case?	
	A That's correct.	
	Q Okay. So stated another way, Take-	
	Two needed WWE's approval for video	

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
	game content in order to sell the video games. Is that accurate?	
	A Take-Two required WWE's approval	
	in order to create WWE licensed product.	
	If they wanted to make a wrestling game	
	without our IP, they could do that.	
	Q Okay. And in connection with	
	obtaining WWE's approval, what types of content did WWE have the obligation to	
	approve?	
	A 2K would've submitted a variety of	
	assets including talent models, gear,	
	arenas, lighting, music, entrance themes.	
	I'm sure there's more I'm missing.	
43:7 - 43:12	Q Right. So is it accurate to say that	Lack of foundation.
43:15 - 43:17	when the video games were developed,	OVEDDIH ED
	given this approval requirement, it it	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	was WWE that really decided whether the games could be marketed by Take-Two or	
	not given its ability to approve WWE	
	licensed content?	
	A WWE approved the elements that go	
	into the game as well as the marketing	
	elements that that Take-Two uses prior	
	to release of the game.	
43:18 - 43:20	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Okay. So would	Lack of foundation;
43:24 - 44:1	Take-Two have released the video games	speculation;
	without the WWE's approval?	improper/incomplete
	A Take Take-Two could not have	hypothetical.
	released the game without WWE	
	approving certain elements within the	<u>OVERRULED</u>
44:2 - 44:16	game.	Farm dations are avalation.
44:2 - 44:10	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Okay. Including the depiction of Randy Orton, correct?	Foundation; speculation; improper/incomplete
	A That's correct. The model a	hypothetical.
	number of other things that get approved	hypothetical.
	into the product.	OVERRULED
	Q Including the talent models, right?	<u> </u>
	A Yes. Like I was saying before, talent	
	models, music, arenas, you know, graphics	
	within, you know, venue systems. It's all -	
	- you know, any anything that touches	
	a WWE brand is an element that that we	
	would approve.	

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
	Q Okay. Thank you. Okay. Now, does there exist a formal approval process within the WWE to approve WWE licensed content with respect to the WWE 2K Games? A Yes.	
52:25 - 53:5 53:9 - 53:12	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Okay. I think you used the phrase "accurate representation" earlier. So let's try and understand what what would WWE do in the event that it received from Take-Two or 2K a talent model product that was under review that was not an accurate representation in WWE's view? A If we received a submission that looked inaccurate, we would again, assuming that we noticed it, we would flag it for comment and and and have to make an adjustment.	Calls for speculation; vague; incomplete/improper hypothetical. OVERRULED
56:23 - 57:22	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Yeah. What's the isthere a connection to sales of the video games in in WWE's protection of its intellectual property? What's the point? What's the point of protecting WWE's intellectual property in the video games? A Well, it it you know, we look at video games as an extension of the brand. It it's part of the the brand experience to our fans. And we think it's important that when when someone buys a WWE product that that they feel like it's it's it's an officially licensed product that has a you know, meets a certain quality bar for for the overall game play experience. Part of that could be inclusive of of proper representation of the brand as well as just, you know, a a, you know, fun game experience. You know, I I I think above and beyond just the the sales of our games is that, you know, it's it's a you know you know, we we find that video games are a good way to interact and engage with fans, you know,	401; 402; 403; compound. OVERRULED

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
	outside of the the the weekly tentpole programming that we have on TV.	
57:23 - 57:24 58:2 - 58:10	Q Okay. Do fans of the video games expect accurate representations of the WWE talent models? A I you know, I I I can't be certain with respect to all audiences. You know, I think that and certainly within, as I've noted before, you know, we do have different games that have different art styles. But with respect to these games, I I think that, yeah, there's a there's an expectation that that the models look similar to what they're used to seeing on TV.	401; 402; 403; calls for speculation; foundation; vague; improper opinion. SUSTAINED; CALLS FOR SPECULATION
60:21-23 61:4-9 61:13-21 61:23-24	If WWE were reviewing a talent model of Brock Lesnar and his signature knife tattoo was absent, do you think WWE would approve that model? A If we were to see a model that was missing the knife tattoo and, presumably, our our reviewers would note if it a disconnect with his reference photos and would flag that. Q (By Mr. Friedman) Okay. Would WWE approve something like that? A As mentioned before, it really just depends on the context. You know, there there may be certain instances where there is a a a story line where we're going, you know, back into historicals and, you know, before he had certain tattoos, or it is a story line for the future where he's saying he covered his tattoos with something new. It it really just depends on the context. A But we would certainly flag it to to your point.	401; 402; 403; 602; speculation; improper/incomplete hypothetical; scope. OVERRULED
67:4 - 67:6 67:7 - 67:7	Q Because without the WWE's approval, the Randy Orton talent model would not have appeared in the marketed video games, isn't that right? A That's correct.	401; 402; 403; improper/incomplete hypothetical; speculation; calls for a legal conclusion. OVERRULED

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
67:8 - 67:10	Q Okay. If if Take-Two had submitted	401; 402; 403;
67:15 - 67:18	a Randy Orton talent model that had	improper/incomplete
	that had no tattoos on it, would the WWE	hypothetical; speculation.
	have approved it?	
	A Similar to the Brock Lesnar response,	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	we we would've flagged it and asked for	
	rationale for why we should approve it	
	within our brand guidelines.	
68:9 - 68:11	Q So had that Orton talent model been	401; 402; 403;
68:15 - 68:17	submitted to the WWE without any	improper/incomplete
	tattoos, would WWE have approved it?	hypothetical; speculation.
	A No, it would not have been approved	
	for the uses that are, you know, within the	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	standard play of the game.	
68:19 - 68:22	Had the Orton talent model been	401; 402; 403;
68:25 - 69:2	submitted with tattoos that were different	improper/incomplete
	from the tattoos that Mr. Orton has in real	hypothetical; speculation.
	life, would the WWE have approved that	OVERDAM ED
	talent model?	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	A Again, without further context, we	
	would've flagged it for further comment	
	and tried to ascertain why they would've	
69:3 - 69:10	made that change.	401, 402, 402,
09:3 - 09:10	Q (By Mr. Friedman) All right. Given	401; 402; 403;
	the way in which the Orton character appears in the WWE 2K Games, had that	improper/incomplete hypothetical; speculation.
	Orton character talent model been	hypothetical, speculation.
	submitted with tattoos that were different	OVERRULED
	from the tattoos Mr. Orton has in real life,	OVERRULED
	would the WWE have rejected that talent	
	model?	
	A That's correct.	
69:15 - 69:18	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Had Take-Two	401; 402; 403;
69:21 - 69:22	submitted a Randy Orton talent model in	improper/incomplete
	which his tattoos were all blurred out, do	hypothetical; speculation.
	you think WWE would've approved that	
	talent model?	OVERRULED
	A I we would not have approved it	
	unless we had a reason to approve it.	
70:6 - 70:23	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Why is it that	401; 402; 403;
	WWE would not have approved an Orton	improper/incomplete
	talent model that lacked any tattoos?	hypothetical; speculation.
		<u>OVERRULED</u>

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
71:13 - 71:22	A Because it would not have been an a accurate depiction of Randy Orton the person. Q Why is it that the WWE would have rejected a Randy Orton talent model that had tattoos that were different from the tattoos that Randy Orton has in real life? A Again, it it would not be an accurate depiction of Randy Orton. Q Okay. Thank you. And similarly, why is it that the WWE would have rejected a Randy Orton talent model in which the character's tattoos were blurred out? A It would not have been an accurate depiction of Randy Orton as he appears in our program. Q Okay. But the tattoos on Randy Orton were important enough that without accurate representation of the tattoos, the Orton talent model would not have been approved, isn't that right? A Presumably. Again, it it's hard it's hard to speculate unless we know the difference that we're talking about. Some things might go unnoticed depending on the resolution and and type of change but	401; 402; 403; improper/incomplete hypothetical; speculation; mischaracterizes testimony. OVERRULED
75:21 - 75:24	Do you think that WWE fans know and understand, you know, who their favorite WWE wrestlers are, right? A Yes.	401; 402; 403; 602; speculation; improper opinion; foundation; scope. OVERRULED
76:4 - 76:6 76:10 - 76:10	Q (By Mr. Friedman) In addition, do you think that WWE fans know what their favorite wrestlers look like? A Yes.	401; 402; 403; 602; speculation; improper opinion; foundation; scope. OVERRULED
76:21 - 76:23 77:1 - 77:2	Q Okay. Would you agree, too, then, that WWE fans generally would know what their favorite wrestler's tattoos look like? A I I think, you know, some would recognize more than others	401; 402; 403; 602; speculation; improper opinion; foundation; scope. OVERRULED

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
80:21 - 81:2	Q (By Mr. Friedman) All right. Let's take a look at this one as an example, Exhibit 4. I see a submission number up at the top left. "Licensee name. Take-Two Interactive Software, Incorporated." That's the defendant in this case, correct? Right? A That's correct.	401; 402; 403; improper opinion; foundation; scope. OVERRULED
81:11 - 81:16	With respect to this product submission, what piece of product content is is is is discussed in this product submission document? A The Randy Orton model for Xbox One and PlayStation 4.	401; 402; 403; foundation; scope. OVERRULED
82:4 - 82:12	Q And then the second line in that "attached files" box says, I mean, "WWE16 XB1_PS4, what what does all that refer to? Could you decipher all that for me? A A a a again, they so these would've been assets for approval for the Randy Orton model. So in particular for the WWE 2K16 game in use for the Xbox One and PS4 consoles as opposed to Xbox 360 or PS3.	401; 402; 403; foundation; scope. OVERRULED
88:17 - 89:2	Q Okay. All right. Thank you, Mr. Kiang. You can put Exhibit 4 down. I'd like to get another one of these product submission pages. And if we could take a look at WWE 207, we'll mark that as Exhibit 5. A I have it in front of me. Q Okay. Thank you. Okay. Have have you have you seen this document before? A I have reviewed it in preparation for today.	401; 402; 403; foundation; scope. OVERRULED
96:6 - 97:3	Q (By Mr. Friedman) All right. Exhibit 6, which we've just marked as WWE_Alexander 112 through 119. And this is another product submission packet, isn't that right, Mr. Kiang? A That is correct.	401; 402; 403; improper opinion; foundation; incomplete; scope. OVERRULED

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
	speak to him with respect to the brand and	
	other creative uses for it for his look.	
	Q (By Mr. Friedman) Okay. But	
	sitting here today, you don't know what it	
	was that Randy Orton maybe had a	
	comment about or or in the words of	
	this one, "no longer approved," right?	
	A I I do not know.	
115:15 - 115:23	Q Okay. Thank you.	401; 402; 403.
	All right. Exhibit 7 for the record	
	bears	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	Bates stamps WWE_Alexander 94	
	through 98.	
	Mr. Kiang, have you seen this email	
	before?	
	A I have in preparation to this.	
	Q Okay. Are you the Ed Kiang on the	
	"To" line of the lead email here?	
	A Indeed.	
116:17 - 117:18	Q All right. It looks like what Mr. Yang	401; 402; 403.
	is is sending you in this email, he	
	writes: "First screens of Randy Orton are	OVERRULED
	going into Mediabox now. Attached."	
	What what what is Mr. Yang	
	sending to you in this email?	
	A So Bryce is send or Bryce Yang	
	is sending screen shots within the within	
	the game, I believe, featuring John Cena	
	and Randy Orton.	
	Q Okay.	
	A And he's uploading it to Mediabox	
	which was the precursor to WWE Source.	
	Q Is this for for the purpose of dov	
	- of of gaining WWE's approval for the	
	media?	
	A I believe so. Yes.	
	Q Okay. And is this for assets that are	
	to be incorporated into the video games?	
	A Not to be put into the game. These -	
	- these are screen captures of the game to	
	be used for marketing of the game.	
	Q Okay. So then is it accurate to say	
	that the screen shots of Randy Orton and	
	John Cena from the game are being used	

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Kiang		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
	for purposes of marketing the game? Is	
	that is that what's happening here?	
	A That's correct.	

II. MARK LITTLE

A. Objections to Initial Designations

Defendants object to Plaintiff's deposition designations for Mr. Little as follows:

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Little		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
49:6 - 49:8	Has Take-Two Interactive Software ever	401; 402; 403; 602; calls for
49:12 - 50:11	obtained a license for a tattoo for inclusion	speculation.
	in a video game?	
	THE WITNESS: As Visual Concepts, I	OVERRULED
	believe we have paid a tattooist to create	
	designs for us for inclusion in the game.	
	BY MR. FRIEDMAN:	
	Q. And what game was that?	
	A. I do not recall offhand which one it	
	was.	
	Q. Was it a WWE game?	
	A. Yes.	
	Q. Was it one of the WWE 2K16, 17,	
	or 18 games?	
	A. I would have to go back and look to	
	be certain.	
	Q. Was it a game that you developed	
	in your capacity as a producer at Visual	
	Concepts?	
	A. Yes.	
	Q. Was it a tattoo that appears on a in-	
	game character?	
	A. No.	
	Q. Okay. Where did the licensed	
	tattoo appear in the game?	
	A. The tattoos would appear in the	
	created content section of the game, so	
	that users that wanted to create their own	
	version of themselves would have tattoo	
	art to pick from to put on their characters.	

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Little			
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections	
166:17 - 166:20	Q. Okay. Were Mr. Orton's tattoos reproduced into WWE video games?	Calls for a legal conclusion.	
	A. Yes. Randy Orton appears with tattoos in our video game	OVERRULED	

III. CHRIS SNYDER

A. Objections to Initial Designations

Defendants object to Plaintiff's deposition designations for Mr. Snyder as follows:

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Snyder		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
17:1 – 17:5	Q. Okay. I'm going to hand you what's	602; lack of foundation.
	been previously marked as Exhibit 2., and	
	that is titled "Master License Agreement."	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	Have you seen that document	
	before?	
	A. No	
33:17 - 33:23	Q. Okay. So all of the sales and	106; 32(a)(6); 401; 402; 403;
	marketing that involve the WWE video	pending MIL.
	games, including the 16, 17, 18 video	
	games, was done by Take-Two and 2K	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	Games; is that correct?	
	A. Correct.	
	MR. FRIEDMAN: Okay. All right.	
	I'm going to mark another exhibit. This is	
	Exhibit 9.	
34:2 - 34:14	Q. Mr. Snyder, have you seen this	106; 32(a)(6); 401; 402; 403;
	document before?	pending MIL.
	A. This is a section of a bigger	
	document; correct? Yes.	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	Q. And the title of this document, or a	
	portion of the spreadsheet, is "WWE 2K	
	Franchise Sales Since April 2015."	
	Mr. Snyder, did you prepare this	
	document?	
	A. No.	
	Q. Do you know who did?	
	A. Yes.	
	Q. Who?	
	A. Barry Charleton.	

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Snyder		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
36:7 – 36:8	MR. FRIEDMAN: I've marked Exhibit 10 which bears Bates Nos. 983.	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL.
36:19 – 36:21	And now I'm going to show you and mark Exhibit 11.	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL.
36:23 - 36:24	MR. FRIEDMAN: Which had the Bates No. TAKE-TWO_1332. And this is a larger spreadsheet.	401; 402; 403; not a question/testimony; pending MIL.
37:3 - 37:4	THE WITNESS: It's really kind of confusing this way.	401; 402; 403; not a question/testimony.
		SUSTAINED
43:12 - 43:19	So it's your understanding that Exhibit 10 describes sales and other	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL.
	financial aspects of the 2K16 game; right? A. Yes.	OVERRULED
	Q. Okay. All right. Can you tell me what was the total gross revenue for the	
	WWE 2K16 game throughout the time	
	period captured by Exhibit 10? A. \$152,673,781.	
44:1 - 44:8	BY MR. FRIEDMAN: Q. All right. So you said	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL.
	\$152,673,781; right? A. Yes.	OVERRULED
	Q. Okay. And that is reflected in	
	Column B for the time period between April 2015 and March 2016; right? A. Yes, I think so.	
44:24 - 45:10	Q. Now, you're telling me, just so I get this right, Column B involves sales of	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL
	2K16? A. Yes.	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	Q. And Column C involves sales of	
	2K17? A. Yes, that is my understanding.	
	Q. Column D describes sales of 2K18? A. Yes.	
	Q. All right. What is Column E? A. Column E, I believe, is sales from	
	'18 into fiscal year '19.	
	Q. Of what? A. Of of 2K18.	

Defendants' Objections to Plaintiff's Designations for Mr. Snyder		
Page/Line	Testimony	Objections
47:10 - 48:5	Okay. What are the gross revenues	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL.
	for the WWE 2K17 game?	
	A. Gross revenues for WWE 2K17	<u>OVERRULED</u>
	was 145,035,743.	
	Q. And what are the gross revenues for	
	the WWE 2K18 game?	
	A. \$134,581,096.	
	Q. Okay. And this figure here of total	
	gross sales or gross revenue of 10,130,615	
	in the last column, what was that?	
	A. I'm not sure.	
	Q. Okay. All right. Are gross	
	revenues the same as total gross sales?	
	A. I don't know how you're defining	
	that. Sorry.	
	Q. Okay. Well, I asked you what the	
	gross revenues were, and then you read	
	from the row that appears to be titled	
	"Total Gross Sales."	
	A. Yes.	
	Q. Those are equivalent terms?	
	A. Yes.	
60:23 - 60:24	Q. So neither Exhibit 10 nor 9 nor 11	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL.
	capture any sales information past August	
	2018; is that correct?	<u>OVERRULED</u>
61:6 – 61:7	A. Capture anything after August	401; 402; 403; Pending MIL.
	2018? That looks to be true, yes.	
		<u>OVERRULED</u>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 21, 2022

STACI M. YANDLE United States District Judge